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B104 (FORM 104) (08/07)

**EDVA** 

ADVERSARY PROCEEDING COVER SHEET (Instructions on Reverse)		ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NUMBER (Court Use Only)			
PLAINTIFFS	DEFENDANTS				
ATTORNEYS (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone No.)	ATTORNEYS (If Known)				
PARTY (Check One Box Only)  □ Debtor □ U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin  □ Creditor □ Other  □ Trustee	PARTY (Check One Box Only)  □ Debtor □ U.S. Trustee/Bankruptcy Admin  □ Creditor □ Other  □ Trustee				
CAUSE OF ACTION (WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE OF ACTION, INCLUDING ALL U.S. STATUTES INVOLVED)  NATURE OF SUIT					
(Number up to five (5) boxes starting with lead cause of action as 1, first alternative cause as 2, second alternative cause as 3, etc.)					
FRBP 7001(1) – Recovery of Money/Property  11-Recovery of money/property - \$542 turnover of property 12-Recovery of money/property - \$547 preference 13-Recovery of money/property - \$548 fraudulent transfer 14-Recovery of money/property - other	FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability (continued)  61-Dischargeability - §523(a)(5), domestic support  68-Dischargeability - §523(a)(6), willful and malicious injury  63-Dischargeability - §523(a)(8), student loan  64-Dischargeability - §523(a)(15), divorce or separation obligation (other than domestic support)				
FRBP 7001(2) – Validity, Priority or Extent of Lien  21-Validity, priority or extent of lien or other interest in property  FRBP 7001(3) – Approval of Sale of Property  31-Approval of sale of property of estate and of a co-owner - §363(h)	☐ 65-Dischargeability - other  FRBP 7001(7) – Injunctive Relief ☐ 71-Injunctive relief – imposition of stay ☐ 72-Injunctive relief – other				
FRBP 7001(4) – Objection/Revocation of Discharge 41-Objection / revocation of discharge - §727(c),(d),(e)	FRBP 7001(8) Subordination of Claim or Interest  81-Subordination of claim or interest				
FRBP 7001(5) – Revocation of Confirmation  51-Revocation of confirmation	FRBP 7001(9) Declaratory Judgment  91-Declaratory judgment				
FRBP 7001(6) – Dischargeability  66-Dischargeability - \$523(a)(1),(14),(14A) priority tax claims  62-Dischargeability - \$523(a)(2), false pretenses, false representation, actual fraud  67-Dischargeability - \$523(a)(4), fraud as fiduciary, embezzlement, larceny  (continued next column)	FRBP 7001(10) Determination of Removed Action  01-Determination of removed claim or cause  Other  SS-SIPA Case – 15 U.S.C. §§78aaa et.seq.  02-Other (e.g. other actions that would have been brought in state court if unrelated to bankruptcy case)				
☐ Check if this case involves a substantive issue of state law		this is asserted to be a class action under FRCP 23			
□ Check if a jury trial is demanded in complaint	Demand \$				
Other Relief Sought					

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BANKRUPTCY CASE IN WHICH THIS ADVERSARY PROCEEDING ARISES						
NAME OF DEBTOR		BANKRUPTCY CASE NO.				
DISTRICT IN WHICH CASE IS PENDING		DIVISION OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE			
RELATED ADVERSARY PROCEEDING (IF ANY)						
PLAINTIFF	DEFENDANT	Γ	ADVERSARY PROCEEDING NO.			
DISTRICT IN WHICH ADVERSARY IS PENDING		DIVISION OFFICE	NAME OF JUDGE			
SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PLAINTIFF)						
DATE		PRINT NAME OF ATTORNE	Y (OR PLAINTIFF)			

#### INSTRUCTIONS

The filing of a bankruptcy case creates an "estate" under the jurisdiction of the bankruptcy court which consists of all of the property of the debtor, wherever that property is located. Because the bankruptcy estate is so extensive and the jurisdiction of the court so broad, there may be lawsuits over the property or property rights of the estate. There also may be lawsuits concerning the debtor's discharge. If such a lawsuit is filed in a bankruptcy court, it is called an adversary proceeding.

A party filing an adversary proceeding must also complete and file Form 104, the Adversary Proceeding Cover Sheet, \*unless the party files the adversary proceeding electronically through the court's Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system (CM/ECF). (CM/ECF captures the information on Form 104 as part of the filing process.) When completed, the cover sheet summarizes basic information on the adversary proceeding. The clerk of court needs the information to process the adversary proceeding and prepare required statistical reports on court activity.

The cover sheet and the information contained on it do not replace or supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, the Bankruptcy Rules, or the local rules of court. The cover sheet, which is largely self-explanatory, must be completed by the plaintiff's attorney (or by the plaintiff if the plaintiff is not represented by an attorney). A separate cover sheet must be submitted to the clerk for each complaint filed.

**Plaintiffs** and **Defendants.** Give the names of the plaintiffs and defendants exactly as they appear on the complaint.

**Attorneys.** Give the names and addresses of the attorneys, if known.

Party. Check the most appropriate box in the first column for the plaintiffs and the second column for the defendants.

**Demand.** Enter the dollar amount being demanded in the complaint.

**Signature.** This cover sheet must be signed by the attorney of record in the box on the second page of the form. If the plaintiff is represented by a law firm, a member of the firm must sign. If the plaintiff is pro se, that is, not represented by an attorney, the plaintiff must sign.

\*Per LBR 7003-1, in the EDVA, a properly completed Adversary Proceeding Cover Sheet is required.

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## IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA RICHMOND DIVISION

In re:	) Case No. 08-35653 (KRH)
CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC., et al.,	) Chapter 11
Debtors.	) (Jointly Administered)
ALFRED H. SIEGEL, AS TRUSTEE OF THE CIRCUIT CITY STORES, INC. LIQUIDATING TRUST,	) ) Adv. Pro. No. 10
Plaintiff,	)
v.	)
DENON ELECTRONICS (USA), LLC,	)
Defendant.	) )

THE LIQUIDATING TRUSTEE'S COMPLAINT TO AVOID AND RECOVER PREFERENTIAL TRANSFERS AND OTHER AMOUNTS OWING TO THE ESTATE AND OBJECTION TO CLAIM NO. 1451

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Alfred H. Siegel, the duly appointed trustee of the Circuit City Stores, Inc.

Liquidating Trust (the "Trustee"), pursuant to the Second Amended Joint Plan of Liquidation of
Circuit City Stores, Inc. and its Affiliated Debtors and Debtors in Possession and its Official
Committee of Creditors Holding General Unsecured Claims (the "Plan"), for his complaint and
for his objection to proof of claim number 1451 (the "Complaint") against Denon Electronics

(USA), LLC ("Defendant"), alleges as follows:

## NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. The Trustee brings this action against Defendant to recover amounts due and owing from Defendant to Circuit City arising from the relationship between the parties. In addition to contractual claims, the Trustee seeks recovery for unjust enrichment and to avoid and recover certain preferential transfers that occurred during the 90-day period prior to the commencement of Circuit City's bankruptcy proceedings, as well as turnover of property of the bankruptcy estates. Finally, the Trustee objects to Defendant's proofs of claim filed against the Debtors' estates.

#### THE PARTIES

- 2. The Trustee ("Trustee" or "Plaintiff") is the duly appointed trustee of the Circuit City Stores, Inc. Liquidating Trust (the "Trust"). Pursuant to Articles II and III of the Trust, the Trustee has the sole authority to pursue claims transferred to the Trust by the Debtors through the Plan, and to litigate objections to claims asserted against the Debtors' estates.
- 3. Prior to the Effective Date of the Plan, Circuit City Stores, Inc. and its affiliated debtors in possession (collectively "Circuit City" or the "Debtors")<sup>1</sup> were corporations

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Debtors and the last four digits of their respective taxpayer identification numbers are as follows: Circuit City Stores, Inc. (3875), Circuit City Stores West Coast, Inc. (0785), InterTAN, Inc. (0875), Ventoux International, Inc. (1838), Circuit City Purchasing Company, LLC (5170), CC Aviation, LLC (0841), CC Distribution Company of Virginia, Inc. (2821), Circuit City Properties, LLC (3353), Kinzer Technology, LLC (2157), Abbott Advertising (cont'd)

that maintained their respective principal places of business in the locations set forth below, and were the debtors in the above-captioned chapter 11 bankruptcy cases.

4. Upon information and belief, defendant Denon Electronics (USA), LLC is organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in Mahwah, New Jersey.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 5. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this matter under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334.
  - 6. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b).
- 7. Venue of these chapter 11 cases and this adversary proceeding in this district and before this Court is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409.
- 8. The statutory and legal predicates for the relief requested by the Complaint are sections 105, 502, 503, 541, 542, 547, 550, and 558 of title 11, United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code"), Bankruptcy Rules 3007 and 7001, and Local Bankruptcy Rule 3007-1.

## PERTINENT FACTS

## A. General Case Background

9. On November 10, 2008 (the "Petition Date"), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions in this Court for relief under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, and until the effective date of the Plan, continued to operate as debtors in possession pursuant to Bankruptcy Code sections 1107 and 1108.

<sup>(</sup>cont'd from previous page)

Agency, Inc. (4659), Patapsco Designs, Inc.(6796), Sky Venture Corp. (0311), PRAHS, Inc.(n/a), XSStuff, LLC (9263), Mayland MN, LLC (6116), Courchevel, LLC (n/a), Orbyx Electronics, LLC (3360), and Circuit City Stores PR, LLC (5512). The address for Circuit City Stores West Coast, Inc. is 9250 Sheridan Boulevard, Westminster, Colorado 80031. For all other Debtors, the address was 9950 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia 23233 and currently is 4951 Lake Brook Drive, Glen Allen, VA 23060.

- 10. On November 12, 2008, the Office of the United States Trustee for the Eastern District of Virginia appointed a statutory committee of unsecured creditors (the "Creditors' Committee").
- 11. On January 16, 2009, the Court authorized the Debtors to, among other things, conduct going out of business sales at all of the Debtors' retail locations (the "Stores") pursuant to an agency agreement (the "Agency Agreement") between the Debtors and a joint venture, as agent (the "Agent"). On January 17, 2009, the Agent commenced going out of business sales at the Stores pursuant to the Agency Agreement. As of March 8, 2009, the going out of business sales at the Debtors' stores were completed.
- 12. On August 9, 2010, the Debtors and the Creditors' Committee filed the Plan, which provides for the liquidation of the Debtors' assets and distribution of the proceeds thereof under chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code.
- 13. On September 10, 2010, the United States Bankruptcy Court, Eastern District of Virginia, signed an Order confirming the Plan.
  - 14. The Plan became effective on November 1, 2010 (the "Effective Date").

# B. The Business Relationship Between Circuit City And Defendant

- 15. Prior to the commencement of these bankruptcy cases, the Debtors were a leading specialty retailer of consumer electronics and operated large nationwide electronics stores that sold, among other things, televisions, home theatre systems, computers, camcorders, furniture, software, imaging and telecommunications products, and other audio and video electronics.
- 16. Plaintiff is informed and believes that on August 2, 2006, Circuit City and Defendant entered into a Letter Agreement and on October 9, 2006 entered into a Consumer

Audio Authorized Internet Dealer Agreement pursuant to which Defendant sold goods to Circuit City (collectively, the "Agreement").

- 17. During the course of the parties' relationship, the parties engaged in numerous transactions pursuant to the Agreement, that are reflected in invoices, communications and other documents (collectively, the "Defendant's Agreements").
- 18. Circuit City and Defendant conducted business with one another up to and through the Petition Date, and thereafter, under the Defendant's Agreements.
- 19. During the ordinary course of the Debtors' business, the Debtors maintained books and records of their transactions with Defendant (the "Books and Records").

## C. <u>Amounts Allegedly Owed To Defendant And</u> Defendant's Proofs Of Claim

## (1) <u>Claim No. 1451</u>

- 20. On or about December 19, 2008, Defendant filed a claim in the amount of \$589,396.62 as a claim allegedly entitled to priority as a "reclamation" claim. The Claims Agent appointed by the Court designated this claim as claim no. 1451.
- 21. Pursuant to the Court's order on Debtors' Nineteenth Omnibus Objections entered March 5, 2010 (Docket No. 6694), Claim No. 1451 has been reclassified to a general unsecured claim.

## D. Amounts Owed To Circuit City By Defendant

22. As of the date hereof, on account of the pre- and post-petition business conducted between Defendant and Circuit City pursuant to the Defendant's Agreements or otherwise, Defendant is indebted to Circuit City on account of the following unpaid obligations (the "Unpaid Obligations") in at least the following amounts:

Chargebacks \$186,410 Warranty Claims \$80,814.83 Case 10-03599-KRH Doc 1 Filed 11/09/10 Entered 11/09/10 22:18:20 Desc Main Document Page 8 of 16

Returns and Deposits **TOTAL** 

\$29,402.79 **\$296,627.62** 

23. The Unpaid Obligations are due, owing, and payable by Defendant to Circuit City.

24. Circuit City has made demand for the Unpaid Obligations, but Defendant has not complied, and has not paid any portion of the Unpaid Obligations.

# E. <u>Transfers To Defendant Made Within 90 Days Prior To The Petition Date</u>

- 25. During the 90-day period prior to the commencement of Circuit City's bankruptcy cases (the "Preference Period"), Circuit City transferred property to or for the benefit of Defendant in an amount not less than \$3,414,091.88. A list identifying each and every transfer during the Preference Period is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit A</u> and incorporated herein by reference (collectively, the "Preferential Transfers").
- 26. Plaintiff acknowledges that some of the Preferential Transfers might be subject to defenses under Bankruptcy Code section 547(c), for which the Defendant bears the burden of proof under Section 547(g). Plaintiff will work with Defendant to exchange applicable information in an effort to resolve any and all factual issues with respect to potential defenses.

### **COUNT I**

## AVOIDANCE OF PREFERENTIAL TRANSFERS PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 547(b)

- 27. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 28. During the Preference Period, Defendant was a creditor of one or more of the Debtors.

- 29. Each Preferential Transfer identified on Exhibit A hereto was made to or for the benefit of Defendant.
- 30. Each Preferential Transfer was made for or on account of an antecedent debt or debts owed by one or more of the Debtors before such Preferential Transfers were made.
  - 31. Each Preferential Transfer was made during the Preference Period.
  - 32. Each Preferential Transfer was made while the Debtors were insolvent.
- 33. Each Preferential Transfer enabled Defendant to receive more than Defendant would have received if (i) the Debtors' chapter 11 cases were instead cases under chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code; (ii) the transfers and/or payments had not been made; and (iii) Defendant received payment on account of the debt paid by the Preferential Transfers to the extent provided by the Bankruptcy Code.
- 34. Each Preferential Transfer constitutes an avoidable preference pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 547(b).

## **COUNT II**

## RECOVERY OF PREFERENTIAL TRANSFERS PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 550

- 35. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 36. Defendant was either (i) the initial transferee of the Preferential Transfers, (ii) the entity for whose benefit the Preferential Transfers were made, or (iii) an immediate or mediate transferee of the Preferential Transfers.
- 37. Each Preferential Transfer that is avoided under Section 547(b) is recoverable pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 550.

38. Subject to potential defenses, the Trustee is entitled to recover the value of the Preferential Transfers pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 550(a).

## **COUNT III**

#### **BREACH OF CONTRACT**

- 39. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 40. Pursuant to the Defendant's Agreements, Defendant is obligated to pay to the Debtors the Unpaid Obligations.
- 41. The Defendant's Agreements are valid and enforceable agreements against Defendant.
- 42. The Debtors performed their obligations under the Defendant's Agreements with respect to the Unpaid Obligations.
- 43. Defendant's failure to compensate the Debtors for the Unpaid Obligations in an amount not less than \$296,627.62 constitutes a material breach of Defendant's obligations under the Defendant's Agreements.
- 44. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breaches, the Debtors incurred damages in an amount not less than \$296,627.62.
- 45. Accordingly, the Trustee is entitled to a judgment against Defendant in an amount not less than \$296,627.62.

## **COUNT IV**

## UNJUST ENRICHMENT/QUASI CONTRACT

46. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.

- 47. In the alternative to Count III, but without waiving any allegation with respect thereto, the Trustee makes the following additional allegations in support of Count IV.
- 48. The Debtors conferred a benefit upon Defendant pursuant to the Defendant Agreements, by paying sums to Defendant it is not entitled to retain.
  - 49. Defendant knowingly accepted the benefit conferred by the Debtors.
- 50. The Debtors reasonably expected to be compensated by Defendant in an amount not less than \$296,627.62 on account of the benefit conferred upon Defendant.
- 51. Defendant's receipt of benefit without just compensation to the Debtors has unjustly enriched Defendant in an amount not less than \$296,627.62.
- 52. The Trustee has no adequate remedy at law to recover the Unpaid Obligations.
- 53. Accordingly, as a result of Defendant's unjust enrichment at the Debtors' expense, the Trustee is entitled to restitution from the Defendant in an amount not less than \$296,627.62.

## COUNT V

## TURNOVER OF PROPERTY PURSUANT TO 11 U.S.C. § 542

- 54. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 55. In the alternative to Counts III and IV, but without waiving any allegation with respect thereto, the Trustee makes the following additional allegations in support of Count V.
- 56. Defendant is in possession, custody, and control of the Unpaid Obligations in an amount not less than \$296,627.62.
  - 57. Defendant is not a custodian for the Unpaid Obligations.

- 58. The Unpaid Obligations constitute valid and existing debts, due and owing by Defendant to the Debtors.
- 59. The Unpaid Obligations are property of the Debtors' estates under section 541 of the Bankruptcy Code and constitute debts that are matured, payable on demand, or payable on order.
- 60. Despite being requested to do so, Defendant has not turned over or paid to Circuit City the Unpaid Obligations.
- 61. Accordingly, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 542, Defendant should be compelled to immediately turn over and deliver to the Trustee the Unpaid Obligations in an amount not less than \$296,627.62.

### **COUNT VI**

## OBJECTION TO CLAIM NO. 1451 – DISALLOWANCE UNDER SECTION 502(d)

- 62. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 63. Claim No. 1451 asserts a right to payment allegedly owed by one or more of the Debtors.
- 64. As alleged above, each Preferential Transfer constitutes an avoidable preference pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 547(b), which is recoverable pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 550.
- 65. Accordingly, pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 502(d), Claim No.

  1451 must be disallowed unless and until Defendant pays to the Trustee an amount equal to each Preferential Transfer that is avoided.

## **COUNT VII**

#### **OBJECTION TO CLAIM NO. 1451 – SETOFF OF THE UNPAID OBLIGATIONS**

- 66. The Trustee repeats and realleges each of the allegations set forth above as if fully set forth herein.
- 67. In the alternative to Counts III, IV and V, but without waiving any allegation with respect thereto, the Trustee makes the following additional allegations in support of Count VII.
- 68. The Unpaid Obligations arose from business transactions between the Debtors and Defendant.
  - 69. The Unpaid Obligations are debts owed by Defendant to the Debtors.
- 70. Claim No. 1451 also arose from business transactions between Defendant and the Debtors, and is a debt allegedly owed by the Debtors to Defendant.
- 71. Consequently, under applicable law, the Debtors have established valid setoff rights.
- 72. Pursuant to Bankruptcy Code section 558, the Debtors' defenses, including setoff, are preserved.
- 73. Under applicable law, the pre-petition Unpaid Obligations should be setoff first against Claim No. 1451.
  - 74. After setoff, Claim No. 1451 should be reduced to \$406,476.37.
- 75. After setoff, the Unpaid Obligations should be reduced to \$113,707.37 (the "Remaining Unpaid Obligations").

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, the Trustee respectfully requests and prays that the Court:

- i. Pursuant to Counts I and II, enter judgment against Defendant under 11 U.S.C. §§ 547 and 550 and allow the Trustee to avoid and recover the Preferential Transfers in an amount not less than \$3,414,091.88; and
- ii. Pursuant to Count III, enter judgment against Defendant for breach of contract and award the Trustee damages in an amount not less than \$296,627.62; and
- iii. In the alternative to Count III, pursuant to Count IV, enter judgment against Defendant for unjust enrichment and award Circuit City restitution damages on account of Defendant's unjust enrichment in an amount not less than \$296,627.62; and
- iv. In the alternative to Counts III and IV, pursuant to Count V, order Defendant to immediately turn over and deliver to the Trustee the Unpaid Obligations in an amount not less than \$296,627.62; and
- v. Pursuant to Count VI, disallow Claim No. 1451 in accordance with Bankruptcy Code section 502(d) pending payment by Defendant to the Trustee of any avoidable and recoverable transfers; and
- vi. In the alternative to Counts III, IV, V and VI, pursuant to Count VII, authorize the Trustee to effect a setoff of the pre-petition Unpaid Obligations against Claim No. 1451, reducing it to the proper amount of \$406,476.37; and
- vii. Award the Trustee prejudgment interest at the legally allowed applicable rate;
  - viii. Award the Trustee costs, and expenses of suit herein; and
- ix. Grant the Trustee such other and further relief the Court deems just and appropriate.

Dated: Richmond, Virginia November 9, 2010 TAVENNER & BERAN, PLC

/s/ Lynn L. Tavenner\_

Lynn L. Tavenner (VA Bar No. 30083) Paula S. Beran (VA Bar No. 34679) 20 North Eighth Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 783-8300

- and -

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- and -

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Counsel to the Liquidating Trustee

## **EXHIBIT A**

## (Preferential Transfers)

Vendor	Check Clear				
Name	Date	Check Number		Paid Amount	
DENON	8/29/2008	1034148	\$	1,086,613.89	
DENON	9/3/2008	1034154	\$	2,474.10	
DENON	9/3/2008	1034252	\$	45,978.00	
DENON	9/8/2008	1034532	\$	446,056.75	
DENON	9/22/2008	1035357	\$	324,730.10	
DENON	9/29/2008	1035739	\$	6,924.81	
DENON	10/7/2008	1036200	\$	601,674.23	
DENON	10/22/2008	1036790	\$	899,640.00	

**Total Payment** 

**Amount** \$ 3,414,091.88